

Amendments to the Drawings:

Replacement sheets for each of the sheets currently labeled with Figs. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, each sheet having two views for each figure, now showing the two views on each sheet relabeled as Figs. 2A and 2B, Figs. 4A and 4B, Figs. 5A and 5B, Figs. 6A and 6B, Figs. 7A and 7B, and Figs. 8A and 8B, respectively, is provided.

The replacement sheets are attached hereto.

REMARKS

1. Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in view of the phrase “fold until complete sticking.” Applicant uses sticking in the sense of retaining two parts together and not, for example, by the less general “adhering”. In the Prior Art section of the subject application, there is a reference to Japanese parent No. 2002078642 which uses a magnetic plate for “retaining” the closing part to the body when the retaining part “sticks” tightly to the ring. In the present invention the two hinged parts are “joined” in such a way as to fold until complete sticking or complete retention of the two parts of the hinge, *whereupon they are locked to each other*. An example of how the two parts of the ring can be joined until they stick is given by the combination of an edge on one part and a groove on the other part that receives the edge.. When these two hinged parts are folded, the edge sticks into the groove, whereby they are locked together. This limitation is supported completely in the specification in the second paragraph under Technical Subject-Matter of the Invention.

2. Claims 4 and 5 are objected as being in improper form as multiple dependent claims. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to not be in multiple dependent format and new claims 9-12 have been added. New claims 9 and 11 depend from claim 2; new claims 10 and 12 depend from claim 3.

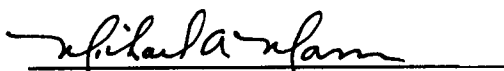
3. The office action requires Applicant to elect a single disclosed species from among those shown in Figs. 6, 7 and 8 for prosecution on the merits to which the claims will be restricted if no generic claim is finally held allowable. The office action further indicates claims 1-3 are generic. Accordingly, Applicant elects the species shown in Fig. 6, which corresponds to claims 1-6.

4. The office action objects to drawings 6-8 because each shows multiple views of the construction. Additionally, Figs. 2, 4 and 5 also show two views per figure. Fig. 2 has accordingly been relabeled Fig. 2A and Fig. 2B; likewise Fig. 4, Fig. 5, Fig. 6, Fig. 7 and Fig. 8 have been relabeled Figs. 2A, 2B, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 7A , 7B, 8A and 8B, respectively. Furthermore, the descriptions of Figures 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been amended accordingly as well as paragraphs 1-4 of page 3 of the present specification to accommodate the relabeling of the Figures. Formal drawings will be provided upon approval of these amendments to the drawings.

Applicant respectfully believes this to be a proper and timely response to the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests examination on the merits of the application. An early and favorable action to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should any matter of form or language stand in the way of allowance of the present application the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone conference to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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